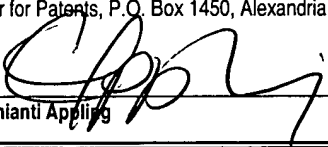


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P.O. Box 1450
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examining the patent application referenced above, which is entering the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 based on International Application No. PCT/US2003/038912, please enter the following amendments below.

Amendments to the Specification begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.